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houses or buildings but young standing crops on the river sides in four villages of Thekkil, Perambala; Karnad and Chemnad were damaged roughly on an extent of 20 acres, 30 acres, 50 acres and 64 acres, respectively. Monetary relief was granted in the case of deserving and poor people to reconstruct their huts. The Revenue authorities have also been instructed to grant takkavi loans liberally for reclamation of paddy fields silted with mud and sand, where necessary. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to make special allotment of 100 bags of second-crop variety seeds to the South Kanara district.''

Death of Koya Moopan due to starvation.

* 178 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Koya Moopan, his three-year old child and two others of Paniyan caste of Vailathur desam, Patiyur amsam, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, died of starvation owing to non-availability of foodstuffs near about 25th August 1953;

(*b*) whether the matter was reported to the Government through the Collector of Malabar; and

(*c*) whether the Government took any action on the basis of the report?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"(*a*) No. The deaths were due to natural causes and not due to starvation.

"(*b*) A report has been obtained from the Collector by the Government.

"(*c*) There was some distress in this village in the months of August-September not on account of non-availability of foodstuffs but on account of poverty among the labouring classes due to want of work. As a measure of immediate relief, the local people with the assistance of the village officers organized a gruel centre. As this was found to be adequate to meet the situation, no gruel centres or other relief measures from State funds were found necessary in this area. The situation has now improved considerably with the commencement of 'kanni' harvest.''

Periodical meetings of Prohibition Committees.

* 179 *Q.*—Sri M. P. SUBRAMANIAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the object of holding District and Taluk Prohibition Committee meetings every month; and

(*b*) in what way these meetings have helped to enforce the Prohibition Act strictly?